13 August 1976

Dear Harold:

You began sending the Chinese quake clips at just the right time, so don't bother to retrace old papers for anything you neglected to send earlier. What you have been sending is exactly the sort of thing we're interested in -- how the Chinese organize and their attitude toward all phases of the disaster. Both the Post and the Times are carrying far more than the local papers and surprisingly with little duplication, so it's all valuable at this stage and extremely interesting. Pre-Peoples Republic China clearly would have been prostrate under such conditions, with almost certain revolts as local satraps sought to take advantage of the ancient Chinese political theory of the Mandate of Heaven. This doesn't mean that the present government is going to escape entirely from opportunist irridentism, but thus far there's no sign that anything has got out of control.

You guess correctly that we won't need copies of the stuff you got from Marks. As you know, we have drastically reduced the scope of our files and no longer seek every scrap of documentation as we once did. We still save highlights, but try where possible to hold everything except Nixon, Watergate and China to a minimum.

Regarding your request for disclosures of local Cointelpro activity, enclosed is the only promising file we've been able to locate. Copy if you like and please return. We'll watch for anything further.

As to Hal, for reasons it is unnecessary to go into here we don't take any initiative toward him and have not since he quit coming round and phoning some time back, probably early in 1973 or shortly after he quit communicating with you. If he should contact us, we shall of course tell him of your needs if it can be done without dragging it in by the heels. Also if he should contact us, we always have been prepared to deal with that situation as naturally as possible and according to circumstances as they develop at that time.

I've enjoyed your developing analysis of the Reagan-Schweiker deal. It also seemed inevitable here that Reagan must have been persuaded by Sears only after they KNEW they didn't have enough delegates to make it on the first ballot, hence they had to do something spectacular and dramatic. The ironic thing, as I think you agree, is that Sears is theoretically right. The problem is he assumes some shred of logic and sense of reality in the GOP mind. Nevah hoppen, I fear. Also it's agreed here that they won't make it unless they have something further in their hand, something so terrific as to approach blackmail proportions. And that Schweiker probably has severely damaged if not ruined his own future. Couldn't happen to a more deserving candidate.

Best from both of us,

jdw